

Department of Environmental Quality

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PDRSF 11.3.83
12/18/87

December 18, 1987

Mr. Tom Robertson
Mr. Chip Humphrey
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Oregon Operations Office
811 SW 6th, Third Floor
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Liquid Air Corporation - Acetylene Plant, Preliminary Assessment

Dear Tom:

This correspondence is to clarify findings and conclusions for the Liquid Air Corporation - Acetylene Plant (ORD 980726210, 6501 NW Front Avenue, Portland, Oregon) Preliminary Assessment (PA).

After second review of the data (made part of the original PA), I still recommend no further action by EPA. I feel the "house keeping" problems and underground storage tank can be managed through DEQ's Northwest Region.

With regards to your concern for the landfill, my characterization (Mixture of non-magnetic shredded auto body wastes and calcium hydroxide solids acetylene manufacturing wastes) is supported by the extensive data from the Gould/NL Superfund Investigation. Attached to the PA is data from Surface Soils, Pond Sediments, Surface Waters, and Ground Water from at least two locations on the Liquid Air Corporation property.

Note that there is one monitoring well up gradient and one down gradient of the Schnitzer landfill.

The only abnormal parameter is pH, which is localized due to the calcium hydroxide wastes.

No mention was made in the PA, nor intended, that organic solvents or the like was disposed of in the landfill. There is no data to support any suspicion of organic contamination. (i.e. the groundwater monitoring data for TOC is very low to none detected.)

USEPA SF



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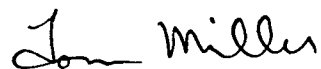
Interviews with plant operators indicate a small usage of solvents during clean up from painting operations and occasional degreasing. The quantities are small, in the order of pints or quarts. This is of no concern and is not suggested as a landfill disposal issue.

Due to high pH values in soils, surface waters, and groundwater, it is suspected that any metals have precipitated out or are tied up in the soils matrix and therefore of little concern to possible receptors.

This is evidenced by EP toxicity and dissolved metals analytical data for ground and surface water samples in the vicinity of the Liquid Air Corporation site as well as in the lake.

In conclusion, based on extensive on and off site data, as well as phone conference and site operator interviews, I feel the facility should be referred to the DEQ Northwest Region for housekeeping inspection and ranked "NO FURTHER ACTION" for purposes of the CERCLIS system.

Sincerely,



Tom Miller
Remedial Project Manager
Hazardous & Solid Waste Div.

cc: Mary Wahl, DEQ
Al Goodman, DEQ
Janet Gillaspie, DEQ